

**Annual Report of Major Outputs and Outcomes**  
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Fundamental State-Based Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program

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**Program Aims**

1. Continue occupational health surveillance in the state
2. Expand occupational health surveillance in Wisconsin
3. Inform state residents about workplace illness, injury and death
4. Act as a safety and health resource for workers

## **Major Outputs & Accomplishments**

### **Occupational Health Indicators**

- Continued fundamental occupational health surveillance through data collection, rate calculation and trend analysis for 20 of the occupational health indicators (OHI), plus one state-specific indicator, work-related asthma (WRA). OHIs were calculated and submitted this year using 2010 data. Wisconsin currently has OHI data available for the years 1999 through 2010 and uses these data for trend analysis.
- Participated in new OHI development by pilot testing the WRA indicator.
- NIOSH's Industry and Occupation (I/O) questions were successfully added to the 2013 Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey.

### **Expanding Surveillance and Partnerships**

- To clarify the role of the WI Occupational Safety and Health Action and Advisory Group (OSAAG) and to begin developing a strategic plan for this group, OH staff conducted informational interviews with several past members (WI Worker's Compensation Claims Management Bureau Director, WI State Lab of Hygiene Occupational Health Laboratory team, including WisCon and BLS, and other past members of OSAAG).
- Project with WI Cancer Reporting System: Coding industry and occupation text fields in the cancer report abstracts using the NIOCCS web-based software tool is underway.
- Data Sharing Agreement with WI Worker's Compensation Claims Division: WI OHS Program is in the process of establishing an MOU with Worker's Compensation to receive quarterly access to claims data.

### **Reports and Publications**

- **Burden of Asthma in Wisconsin 2013** report for the WI Asthma Program includes a chapter on work-related asthma (WRA). The burden of WRA in Wisconsin is estimated using WI BRFSS data, inpatient hospitalization and emergency department visit data with workers' compensation as anticipated payer, and workers' compensation claims.

- **ABLES Annual Report 2012** summarized activity and interventions by the WI ABLES Program between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.
- **NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Trip Report** summarizes HHE at a metal machining facility in Ashland, WI, based on 4 cases of severe lung disease thought to be an immune response to bioaerosols from metalworking fluid.
- **NIOSH E-News submission in September 2012** described Wisconsin's efforts to educate workers on silica exposure in hydraulic fracturing sand. WI OHS Program distributed NIOSH Hazard Alert and other educational material on exposure to silica during hydraulic fracturing to companies engaged in oil and gas mining, to companies that supply sand for this process, and to local public health departments throughout WI.
- **Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Baseline and Health Disparities Report** includes a chapter on occupational health surveillance and workplace inequity written by OHS staff.

#### Workgroups

- Participation in the CSTE Occupational Health Indicator (OHI) Workgroup
- Participation in the NIOSH BRFSS I/O Workgroup

#### Conferences and Presentations

Date	Type	Event/Description
8/15/2012	Conference	NIOSH NORA Manufacturing Sector Council Meeting
8/26/2012	Conference	International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) Conference (occupational exposure issues)
9/10/2012	Conference	ASTHO Annual Meeting (Environmental/Occupational Council meeting)
10/1/2012	Conference	Environmental Public Health Tracking Grantees Meeting (Discussions to include Occupational Health Indicators on tracking portals)
10/25/2012	Conference	Collegium Ramazzini Meeting (asbestos issues)
12/4/2012	Conference	NIOSH State-Based Occupational Safety & Health Surveillance Grantees Meeting
1/30/2013	Conference	NIOSH NORA Partners Meeting
2/28/2013	Conference	NIOSH NORA Manufacturing Sector Council Meeting
4/7/2013	Conference/Presentation	NIOSH/State Occupational Lung Disease (WRA and Silicosis) Surveillance Meeting: - Presentation on Silicosis in Wisconsin - Data prepared by OHS staff included trends of silicosis/asbestosis, worksheet of respiratory conditions in inpatient hospitalization and ED visit data and whether they were paid by worker's compensation
4/17/2013	Conference	CSTE Occupational Health Committee, OSHA/NIOSH Meeting
5/10/2013	Conference	Wisconsin Asthma Coalition Annual Meeting
5/14/2013	Conference/Presentation	NIOSH NORA Construction Council Meeting: - Presentation on respirator use study

6/9/2013	Conference	CSTE Annual Meeting: - National Meeting of Occupational Health Epidemiologists - Occupational Health Surveillance Partners Meeting - CSTE Occupational Health Subcommittee Meeting
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#### Other

- Completed a new 5-year IRB application through University of Wisconsin for WI OHS Program grant (approved 3/22/2013).
- Since November 2012, Carrie Tomasallo has served as the OHS Program epidemiologist and interim program manager. A newly-hired program manager for the OHS Program will start on July 15, 2013.

#### Outcomes

Potential outcomes – findings, results, or recommendations that could impact workplace risk

Most of the short-term outcomes of our program are an increase in knowledge.

- Increased partner awareness of the WI OHS Program through presentations, meetings and collaboration.
- Increased public knowledge of occupational illness, injury and death in Wisconsin's workplaces through publications obtainable on the WI OHS Program's website. In the past year, there were 9,756 visits to the program's website. Most visits were to the 'links' page; however, visitors also downloaded brochures, fact sheets and reports.

Intermediate outcomes – how findings have been used by others to influence practices, legislation, safety program, training, etc.

- Use and knowledge of other datasets such as worker's compensation and cancer reporting system
- OSHA regularly monitors businesses exposing workers to lead, using reports of elevated blood lead levels provided by the WI OHS Program (ABLES)

End (long-term) outcomes – how findings have contributed to reductions in work-related morbidity, mortality, and/or exposure

Total occupational injury rates in Wisconsin increased slightly between 2009 and 2010, according to the results of the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). However, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program data indicate a slight decline in occupational fatalities during this period (94 fatalities in 2009 to 91 fatalities in 2010).

- Most of the 20 individual OHIs calculated for 2010 remained static or improved significantly from the previous year. One notable exception was the doubling in the incidence rate (from 2009) of reported cases of work-related pesticide poisoning. In addition, despite the fact that 2010 rates for work-related low back disorder hospitalizations were slightly lower than in 2009, these rates are substantially higher than those reported in 2007 and 2008.